THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) to (b) The Schemes formulated and being implemented by this Ministry for the welfare of weaker sections *i.e.* Scheduled Castes & Backward Classes are available on the website of the Ministry. The details of amount released for the last three years is [See Appendix 2004 Annexure No. 10]. The details of the Schemes for the welfare of Scheduled Tribes and amount released for the last three years are available in the Annual Report of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs for the year 2003-04.

Reservation for disabled

737. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any clear cut policy of reservations in civil services and educational institution for disabled;

(b) if so, the details therefor;

(c) the case of non-implementation of reservation policy for disabled; and

(d) the action taken by Government to ensure compliance of the reservation policy?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MEIRA KUMAR): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. Section 33 of the Persons with Disabilities Act, 1995 provides that every appropriate Government shall provide for reservation of not less than 3% of vacancies in identified posts in every establishment for persons with disabilities of which one percent each shall be reserved for persons suffering form (i) blindness or low vision; (ii) hearing impairment and (iii) locomotor disability or cerebral palsy.

Section 39 of the Act stipulates that all Government educational institutions and other educational institutions receiving aid from the Government, shall reserve not less than three per cent seats for persons with disabilities.

(c) and (d) The Chief Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities has

been appointed under the Persons with Disabilities Act, 1995, whose functions *inter-alia* include monitoring the implementation of reservation policy in employment and education.

Restoration of Tribal Status to Adivasis in Assam

738. SHRI SILVIUS CONDPAN: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are coming up with a bill for restoration of Tribal Status of the Adivasis (Tea Garden Labour Tribes) in Assam as their counterparts living in West Bengal and Tripura State Tea Industry and villages have been enjoying tribal status since inception of the Constitution; and

(b) whether it is not a Constitutional discrimination to the Adivasis of Assam?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): (a) and (b) The Scheduled Tribes are notified under Article 342 of the Constitution. The lists of Scheduled Tribes are state specific. The criteria followed for specification of a community as a Scheduled Tribe are:

(i) indications of primitive traits,

(ii) Distinctive culture,

(iii) Geographical isolation,

(iv) Shyness of contact with the community at large, and

(v) Backwardness

The proposals of the Government of Assam for inclusion of Tea Garden Labour Tribes in the list of Scheduled Tribes of Assam has been processed as per the approved modalities.

Scheme for Welfare of Tribals in Gujarat

739. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the schemes/programmes being implemented for welfare of tribals living in forests, State-wise particularly in Gujarat State;

(b) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by Government for providing alternative livelihood to such tribals due to shrinking of forest areas;